

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-13, and 16-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 12 and 16 are amended and claims 3-4 and 14-15 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Lepisto and Font during the September 20, 2005 personal interview are gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hirota et al. (JP 10-123350 A). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Hirota fails to disclose or suggest a light signal transmitting device or a signal processing device that includes a light transmitting connecting material for optically connecting an optical fiber with a light guide body, wherein the connecting material is provided at least in an area including a partial side surface of the optical fiber, a gap between the optical fiber and the light guide body, and a portion of the light guide body, as recited in independent claims 1 and 12. As such, independent claims 1 and 12, and their dependent claims, are patentable over Hirota. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2, 5-13 and 16-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:TMN/amw

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 13, 2005

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